THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) 171 cases of robberies have been reported in Delhi during the last six months i.e. from 1-2-93 to 31-7-93 as compared to 140 cases during the corresponding period of last year. The number of cases of burglary reported during the last six months of the current year is 668 as compared to 741 cases reported during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The steps taken to curb crimes in Delhi include increased patrolling ; posting of pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence ; frequent raids at the hideouts of criminals; increased surveillance ; co-ordination meetings with the officials of the neighbouring States; training of police officers in handling modem weapons ; and, modernisation of the communication network.

Withdrawal of Small and Petty Cases from Courts

3985. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to withdraw petty and small cases from various courts in the National Capital territory of Delhi in the near future ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to give similar advice to the State Governments to reduce the burden of the Courts particularly in the lower courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Administration has reported that the Chief Justice of India vide his letter dated 15-5-91 had directed the Chief Justice, Justice of the Delhi High Court to consider withdrawal of stale and ineffective cases from prosecution so as to free the courts from unnecessary burden. Following a discussion of the Lt. Governor of Delhi with the Chief Justice, of Delhi High Court on 12-9-91, it was decided to consider withdrawal of stale and ineffective cases which were registered prior to 31-12-1988 pertaining to MCD, NDMC, Labour Deptt, Traffic, etc. The Lt. Governor of Delhi has so far recommended 36724 cases for withdrawal from prosecution.

(c) State Governments are competent to take a decision in the matter on their own.

Amending the Police Act

3986. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state *

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past various Courts in the country including the High Courts have passed structures against the Police authorities for laxity in probe of criminal cases by them:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof:

(c) what action has been taken against such police authorities by the State and Central Government; and

(d) whether Government propose to amend the Police Acts to provide punishment for such Police authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) to (d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, no such information is compiled by the Central Government. It is for the concerned State Governments/Union Territory administrations to take appropriate action in such matters.

Escape of Criminals from Jails

3987. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past a number of criminals including militants have escaped either from Jails or from custody of police officials in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what actions were taken against the jail authorities or police officials in such cases with details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to prevent the escape of criminals and militants from the jails and custody of police 7

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) 'Prisons' being a State subject the Central Government does not compile statistics relating to escape of prisoners. In each case of escape, it is for the State Government concerned to take necessary action. The Central Government on its part is helping the States to beef up security arrangements in prisons.